

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. In a fault tolerant system having a primary device and at least one
2 redundant device, and further having a remote controller for monitoring the status
3 of the devices and providing a control signal to switch from the primary device to
4 the redundant device upon detection of a failure in the primary device, a method
5 of determining validity of the control signal comprising:

6 continually sending a first signal having a predetermined varying
7 characteristic to at least the primary device from the remote controller; and

8 sending a second signal having a different varying characteristic to at least
9 the primary device from the remote controller upon detection of a failure of the
10 primary device.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the varying characteristic comprises
2 a signal frequency.

1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the signal frequency is a continuous
2 wave frequency.

1 4. The method of claim 2 wherein the signal frequency is a selected
2 number of signals per unit of time.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one device includes a
2 receiver responsive to ~~the~~ the first signal for acknowledging receipt thereof to
3 the remote controller.

ADM